



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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National Weather Service Recognizes Orlando Health as StormReady®

National Weather Service officials have recognized Orlando Health as a StormReady® community. With more than 24,000 patients and staff, the seven facilities of Orlando Health becomes the first hospital in Florida and the seventh one nationwide to achieve StormReady® status.

"StormReady encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness in partnership with their local National Weather Service Office," said Scott Spratt, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Melbourne. Spratt will present hospital officials with a recognition letter and special StormReady® signs during a ceremony to be held at Orlando Health on August 3.

The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from the local National Weather Service forecast office and state and local emergency managers. The program began in 1999 with seven communities in the Tulsa, Okla. area. Today, there are more than 1,700 StormReady® communities.

To be recognized as StormReady®, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public; create a system that monitors local weather conditions; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and, develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady® program is part of the National Weather Service's working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association. The StormReady® recognition expires in three years, after which the hospital will go through a renewal process.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the internet:

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

StormReady® program: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

StormReady® is a registered trademark used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.